

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ABD AL-QUDDUS EXPLAINS SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS DEAL IN
TERMS OF DETENTE

SUMMARY. AHRAM'S EDITOR IN CHIEF JUN 13 DETAILS EVENTS IN ME
SINCE 1952 REVOLUTION INTERMS OF US-SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ME AND
EXPLAINS RECENT SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS DEAL AS NECESSARY TO SOVIETS
IN ESTABLISHING A NEW FOOTHOLD IN AREA. HE REMARKS ON US
SILENCE WITH RESPECT TO ARMS DEAL AND ADMONISHES ARAB STATES
NOT TO FALL BACK INTO US OR SOVIET SPHERES BUT TO CONTINUE
QUEST FOR ARAB UNITY. END SUMMARY

1. IN LONG FRONT PAGE COLUMN JUNE 13, AHRAM'S EDITOR IN CHIEF
IHSAN ABD AL-QUDDUS OUTLINES EVENTS IN ARAB WORLD SINCE 1952
EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION IN TERMS OF US-SOVIET SPHERES OF INFLUENCE,
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LEADING UP TO DISCUSSION OF RECENT SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS DEAL.

ABD AL-QUDDUS' OUTLINE EMPHASIZES EARLY TENDENCY OF ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, TO BE EXCLUSIVELY IN EITHER US OR SOVIET CAMP. ACQUISITION OF ARMS AND ACCOMPANYING ADVISORS FROM EITHER SUPERPOWER NECESSARILY FORCED ACCEPTING STATE TO FALL UNDER RESPECTIVE "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MONOPOLY". BREAK-AWAY FROM SOVIETS BEGAN BY NASSER WHEN HE ACCEPTED ROGERS PLAN AND COMPLETED BY SADAT WHEN HE GOT RID OF SOVIET EXPERTS. EGYPT'S RESULTANT "INDEPENDENT PERSONALITY" ENCOURAGED ARAB STATES "LINKED TO US" TO BEGIN TO EXERCISE, "WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS", THEIR OWN "RIGHTS OF INDEPENDENT PERSONALITY".

2. ABD AL-QUDDUS WRITES THAT US "PREPARED" 1967 ME WAR "IN REPLY TO SOVIET EXPANSIONIST PLANS", WHICH WERE SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED. SINCE THEN, SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID WAR IN ME AS IT WOULD RESULT IN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO SUPER-POWERS. THE 67 AND 73 WARS HAVE THUS "EMPHASIZED THE POLICY OF DETENTE", WHICH HAS NOW BEEN REINFORCED BY RECENT SOVIET DECLARATION THAT IT IS PREPARED DEFEND ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST.

3. ABD AL-QUDDUS CONTINUES THAT IT IS PEACE BETWEEN US AND USSR THAT "COUNTS" RATHER THAN BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAEL. HOWEVER, PEACE CAN ONLY BE ASSURED IF THERE ARE "CENTERS" FROM WHICH IT CAN BE "DEFENDED" AND SOVIET UNION, HE ASSERTS, FINDS ITSELF IN GREATER NEED OF THESE CENTERS THAN DOES US. HENCE, THE NEW SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS AGREEMENT, CONCLUDED AT A TIME WHEN IT "APPEARS AS AN EXPLOITATION OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA". ABD AL-QUDDUS ASKS HIMSELF WHY US HAS "PAID NO ATTENTION" TO THIS DEVELOPMENT AND SURMISES THAT THIS IS BECAUSE EITHER A) LIBYA DOES NOT CONFRONT ISRAEL, THE US'S "SOLE CONCERN"; B) US DOES NOT BELIEVE ARMS WILL "INFILTRATE INTO EGYPT" (US WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE "OBJECTED AND PROTESTED"); OR C) US DESIRES TURN LIBYA INTO "BUFFER ZONE" BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN ARABS. HE STATES NO PARTICULAR PREFERENCE FOR ANY ONE OF THE THREE SUPPOSITIONS.

4. IN CONCLUSION ABD AL-QUDDUS ADMONISHES ARAB STATES NOT TO RETURN TO EXCLUSIVELY PRO-SOVIET OR PRO-US POLICIES BUT TO "RETAIN UNITY OF INTER-ARAB RELATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL PLANE... TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM SUPERPOWERS' DETENTE OR DISPUTES".
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HE ADDS WARNING TO QADHAAFI THAT, ALTHOUGH HE NOW BLITHELY SAYS HE WILL "TURN OUT" SOVIET ADVISORS AS SADAT DID, "SOVIET UNION BENEFITED FROM ITS EXPERIENCE WITH SADAT AND WILL GUARD AGAINST A REPETITION OF THE ORDEAL". QADHAAFI SHOULD INSTEAD LEARN LESSON FROM EGYPTIAN EXPERIENCE.

5. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO OTHER RATHER VIRULENT ATTACKS ON QADHAAFI'S SANITY AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES BY EGYPTIAN EDITORS

IN WAKE OF SOVIET-LIBYAN ARMS DEAL, ABD AL-QUDDUS PIECE EXPLAINS
TO READERS THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE OF CONCERN NOT ONLY
TO NEIGHBORING EGYPT BUT TO ENTIRE ARAB NATION. HE OPINES THAT
ME CONFLICTS HAVE FURTHERED US-SOVIET DETENTE POINTING UP
DANGER THAT GRAVITATION OF ANY ARAB STATE TO EITHER CAMP
ALLOWS SUPERPOWERS TO PLAY OUT DETENTE BY INSISTING ON NO
WAR IN ME, WITHOUT REAL CONCERN FOR ISSUES INVOLVED IN
ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. FACT THAT LIBYA NOW SLIDING INTO
SOVIET CAMP ALLOWS SOVIETS "CENTER" FROM WHICH TO EXERT
ITS INFLUENCE OVER ENTIRE AREA.
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